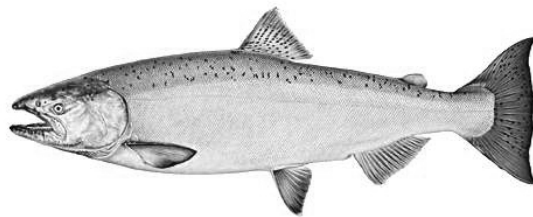


2011

Sport Fishing Regulations Changes Highlights



Southcentral Alaska Region



This summary of changes, adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries for the regulatory year 2011-2012, is not a comprehensive list of detailed changes. It is the angler's responsibility to read the 2011 Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations for complete information. Lower Cook Inlet regulation changes contained here are in effect now; changes in remaining areas go into effect April 15, 2011. For more information, contact the Sport Fish Information Center at (907) 267-2218.

All Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast Fresh Waters

A coho salmon 16 inches or longer that is removed from fresh water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. **A person may not remove a coho salmon 16 inches long or longer from the water before releasing it.**

West Cook Inlet

- The **Beluga River** and all tributaries, including **Coal Creek**, are **closed** to king salmon fishing.
- The **Chuitna, Theodore and Lewis rivers** are **closed** to fishing for king salmon.
- The **bag and possession limit for coho salmon** was increased to three per day, six in possession in streams of West Cook Inlet north of West Forelands to the Susitna River. Streams within this area include the Chuitna, Theodore, Lewis, and tributaries of the Beluga River.

Susitna River Drainage

Regulations changes affecting Valley king salmon fisheries

- **Goose Creek**, within Unit 2 of the Susitna River, is closed to sport fishing for king salmon.
- The king salmon season on **Parks Highway streams** within Unit 2 of the Susitna River is reduced. King salmon fishing is open until the third Monday in June and for the next two consecutive three-day weekends (Saturday-Monday). This year these streams will be open from January 1 -June 20, June 25-June 27, July 2-July 4. In addition, fishing is only allowed from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. in waters open to king salmon fishing from May 15-July 13. These new regulations apply to all flowing waters within Unit 2, including **Willow, Little Willow, Grays, Caswell, Sheep, Montana, Sunshine, and Rabideux creeks, and the Kashwitna River.**
- Fishing from a boat for any species is prohibited in a portion of the **Susitna River at the furthest downstream mouth of Willow Creek**, also known as the “first mouth” of Willow Creek, from May 1 - July 13. The area closed to fishing from a boat is from an ADF&G marker on the

Susitna River Drainage

upstream bank, downstream approximately 300 yards to another marker.

- On the **Talachulitna River**, once an angler retains a king salmon 20 inches or longer, that angler must stop fishing for king salmon within a one-mile radius of the Talachulitna River mouth for the rest of the day.
- Fishing for any fish species is closed within a one-half mile radius of the mouth of Alexander Creek from May 1- July 13.

Regulations changes affecting Susitna coho salmon fisheries

- The bag and possession limit for coho salmon was increased to three per day in all streams within Units 3, 5, and 6 of the Susitna River drainage:
 - ♦ Upper Susitna streams (Unit 3) include Indian and Portage creeks.
 - ♦ Talkeetna River streams (Unit 5) include Clear, Larson, and Prairie creeks.
 - ♦ Chulitna River streams (Unit 6) include Byers, Honolulu, Troublesome, and the East Fork Chulitna.

Regulations changes affecting Susitna River pike fisheries



- The size limit for northern pike on Alexander Lake is repealed. Anglers may use five lines through the ice, and may now use bow-and-arrow and spear to take northern pike with no bag, possession, or size limit, year round.
- In the Susitna River drainage, including all westside tributaries and waters of the eastside Susitna River north of Willow Creek, and in all West Cook Inlet area waters, **northern pike may not be released back into the water alive**. Further, anglers may choose to either discard dead pike in a responsible manner or harvest their catch.

Knik Arm Drainages

Regulations changes affecting Knik Arm salmon fisheries

- **Fish Creek** will host a **youth-only fishery** open only to anglers younger than age 16. This fishery is designated for the first Saturday and Sunday in August, from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. each day. Sockeye, coho, and pink salmon will be available for these youths from the mouth of Fish Creek upstream to a marker located $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile upstream of Knik-Goose Bay Road.
- On the **Little Susitna River**, after retaining a limit of salmon greater than 16 inches, anglers may not fish for any fish species on the Little Susitna River downstream of the Parks Highway the remainder of the day. This regulation applies to all waters open to salmon fishing on the Little Susitna River from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway, a distance of approximately 70 river miles.

Regulations changes affecting Knik Arm pike fisheries



- Northern pike may be taken through the ice on **Big and Nancy lakes** under specific guidelines:
 - ◆ Up to five lines may be used from November 1-March 15;
 - ◆ Fishing allowed 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Note: Current regulations for other species in these lakes have not changed and anglers fishing for species other than pike may fish outside designated hours);
 - ◆ Hook gap must be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from point to shank;
 - ◆ Two single hooks per line are allowed if both hooks are attached to the same piece of bait;
 - ◆ A whole, legally recognized baitfish such as a herring or smelt must be used if fishing with bait;
 - ◆ Bait must be suspended above the bottom of the lake;
 - ◆ All lines must be closely attended;
 - ◆ All fish except northern pike must be released immediately unharmed.

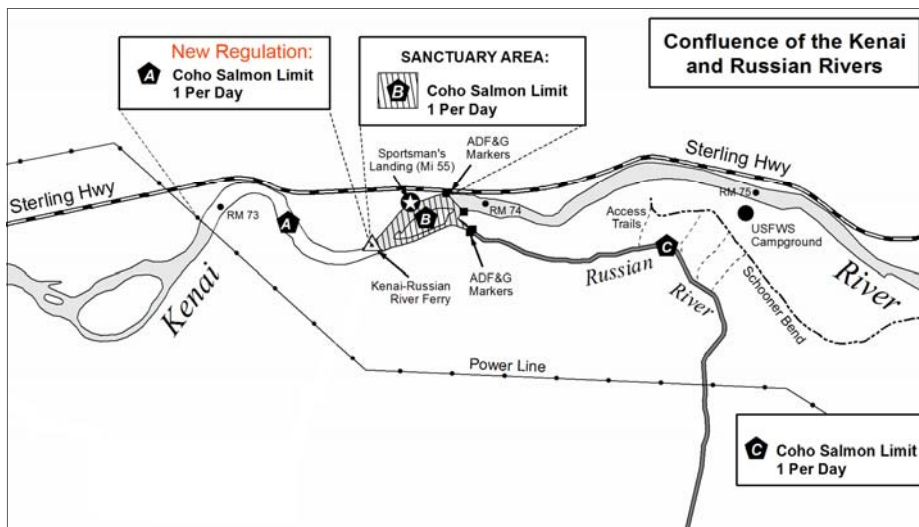
Upper Kenai Peninsula

All Kenai Peninsula Freshwaters

- The daily bag and possession limit for burbot is two fish per day, unless otherwise noted under exceptions for specific waters.

Kenai River Drainage

- From the ferry crossing near the confluence of the Russian and Kenai rivers, downstream to the power lines, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon is one fish per day.



- Below the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna, a drift boat may have onboard a single motor no greater than 10 horsepower to be used to exit the drift boat fishery on Mondays, only after fishing has ceased for the day, and only downstream of Cunningham Park (river mile 6.5).
- Back-trolling/back-bouncing with aid of a motor is prohibited in July between ADF&G markers approximately one river mile near Eagle Rock.

Kasilof River Drainage

- Bait is allowed downstream of the Sterling Highway bridge from September 1 - September 15.
- Fishing in Tustumena Lake tributaries is closed from May 2 - June 10.

Kodiak Salt Water

Regulations affecting rockfish fisheries

- **Season:** Open all year
- **Bag Limits:** Five per day, 10 in possession; only two per day, four in possession may be non-pelagic, only one of which (two in possession) may be a yelloweye rockfish.



Yelloweye Rockfish

Kodiak Fresh Water

Waters Closed to All Sport Fishing

- **Kalsin Pond outlet stream** is closed to sport fishing from the Chiniak Highway culvert to ADF&G markers approximately 150 feet downstream.

Exceptions and Closed Waters

- Salmon streams flowing into Chiniak Bay, upstream from the highway, are closed to salmon fishing August 1 - September 15; except the Buskin River drainage, which is open year-round, and the American and Olds River drainages, which are open year-round to fishing for king salmon.

Lower Cook Inlet

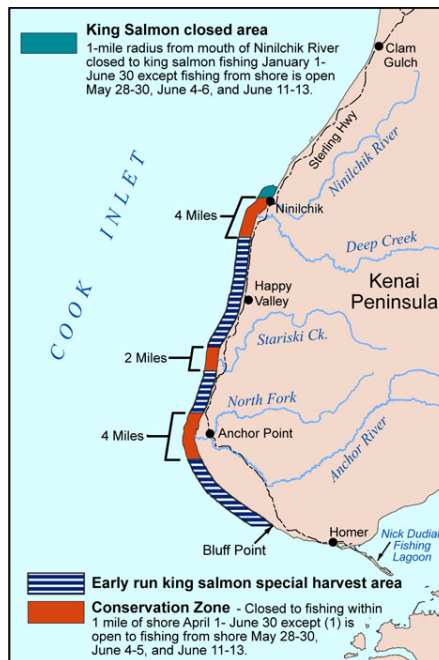
Winter King Salmon Fishery (October 1 to March 31)

The northern boundary of the winter king salmon sport fishery in Cook Inlet salt waters (formerly Bluff Point) has been extended and is now marked by the Anchor Point light at latitude 59° 46.14' N.

- The bag limit between Bluff Point and the Anchor Point light is increased to two king salmon of any size with no recording requirement during this winter period.
- King salmon regulations north of the Anchor Point light during this winter period remain one king salmon per day; king salmon 20 inches or greater in length count toward the five king salmon annual limit, and a harvest record is required.

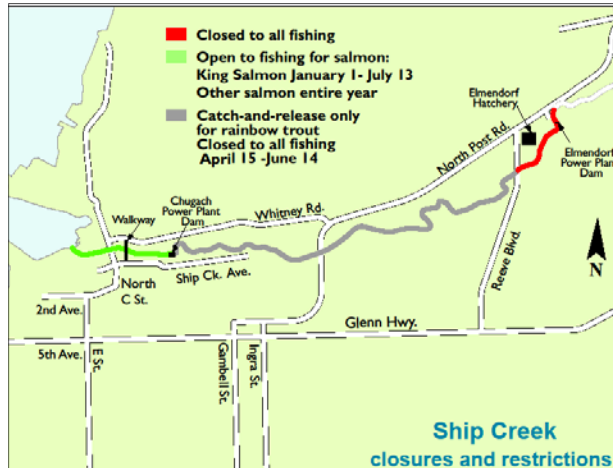
Early-Run King Salmon Special Harvest Areas (April 1-June 30):

- The closed areas at the Anchor River mouth have been extended to two miles north and south from the river (four miles) and one mile from shore.
- When **Ninilchik River and Deep Creek** are opened to king salmon fishing, anglers may fish from shore within the salt-water conservation zone from south of the Ninilchik River to two miles south of Deep Creek at the ADF&G marker. Ninilchik River and Deep Creek are opened to fishing for king salmon for three consecutive three-day weekends starting Memorial Day weekend.
- **Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek** are closed to all fishing from November 1 until spring salmon seasons begin.
- **Anchor River-Deep Creek Annual King Salmon Limit:** No more than two king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may be retained each year from the Anchor River and Deep Creek combined.



Anchorage Bowl

- **Ship Creek** is closed to fishing from the Chugach Power Plant Dam upstream to Reeve Boulevard April 15 – June 14.



Regulations changes affecting Campbell Creek fisheries:

- Entire drainage closed to fishing April 15 – June 14.
- Open to coho salmon fishing July 14 – October 1 from the ADF&G marker under Dimond Boulevard upstream to ADF&G markers located near Shelikof Street, and from ADF&G markers located just upstream of Lake Otis Parkway to markers located at the North Fork/South Fork confluence near Piper Street.
- Closed to fishing downstream of ADF&G marker located under Dimond Boulevard, and between ADF&G marker near Shelikof Street upstream to an ADF&G marker immediately upstream of Lake Otis Parkway.
- The entire **Chester Creek** drainage is closed to sport fishing April 15 – June 14.
- On **Bird Creek**, the entire drainage is closed to fishing January 1 – July 13.
- On **Symphony Lake**, the Arctic grayling bag limit is five fish per day, five in possession, only one fish per day greater than 12 inches in length. Symphony Lake was removed from the Anchorage Area Stocked Lakes and Streams section, and is closed to all fishing May 1– June 30.